



Theseus and the Minotaur

In a city called Troezen in ancient Greece, Aegeus the King of Athens and Aethra had a son, Theseus. Aegeus had to go to Athens but before he left he buried his sword and sandals under a heavy rock and said to Aethra when Theseus grows up, on his 16th birthday, to take him to the rock, lift this, wear the sandals, take the sword and go to his palace in Athens to meet him.

When Aegeus saw the sword and the sandals recognised his son.

Theseus asked his father why were the people sad in Athens.

He said that some years ago Minos' son, Androgeus, was killed by some Athenians. Minos won the war that followed and made the Athenians pay a tribute every year. Since then they have to send 7 boys and 7 girls as a sacrifice to the Minotaur which is a terrible monster with the body of a man and the head of a bull, and lives in a maze that Daedalus made under the palace of King Minos in Crete.

Theseus decided to go to Crete to fight for the freedom of Athens and kill the Minotaur. His father told him that he would wait for him at Cape Sounio coming back safely having white sails on his ship. When the ship arrived in Crete, Minos' daughter, Ariadne saw Theseus, fell in love with him and went to Daedalus for advice. He told her what to do to help Theseus. She gave Theseus a ball of thread in order to go in the maze and unwind it until he finds the Minotaur. After Theseus kills the Minotaur he can follow the thread back to the entrance of the maze. Finally, Theseus killed the Minotaur but he and Ariadne were afraid Minos would punish them.

They left Crete in a hurry and stopped in the island of Naxos. The God Dionysus wanted her to stay in Naxos and marry her. Theseus and Ariadne were sad because they didn't want Ariadne to stay in Naxos but they had to do what the God said. Theseus forgot to put the white sails...Aegeus was at Cape Sounio waiting for the ship. When he saw the black sails he believed that his son was dead and he jumped into the sea. The sea into which Aegeus fell is called the Aegean Sea. Some months later, Theseus got married to Phaedra (sister of Ariadne) and Ariadne became immortal since she married God Dionysus.

the end

Places connected to the legend “Theseus and the Minotaur”

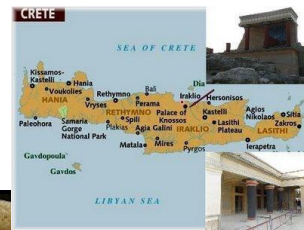


Aegeus was the King of Athens. His son, Theseus, left Athens with his ship to go to the island Crete and kill Minotaur.



Ancient Troezen and the stone of Theseus.

Minotaur lived in the Maze under the palace of Minos in Crete.



The temple of the god Dionisos to the island Naxos.



Cape Sounio

